

## Fall Color Report – Sept. 25, 2020

### Northwest

In the Quad Cities area, leaf watchers note the mostly green landscape remains as autumn begins. They are seeing more changes in sugar maple (pinkish orange), and red maples are showing a little more crimson. Yellow is progressing in walnut and birch, which are losing more leaves.

In rural areas, corn and soybean harvests have begun. As the corn crop continues to mature and dry down, we see more beige in corn fields, and beans fields are also maturing, showing more brownish yellow leaves and light brown stalks and bean pods.

Roadside views include yellow wild sunflowers, greenish yellow goldenrod, and maroon dogwoods and sumac (some turning deep scarlet). Woodlands still have white snakeroot flowers.

### Northeast

Fall colors are just getting underway in northeast Illinois. Poison sumac is splashing its colors in and around Volo Bog State Natural Area (Guided tours only; contact the site by email at [dnr.volobog@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.volobog@illinois.gov)). Bur-marigold continues to dominate the marsh zone that encircles the bog. Gray dogwood plays nicely with the sumac. Asters are joining the show with their beautiful purples, pinks and whites, to accent the yellows of the goldenrods. Big bluestem and Indian grass lend their gorgeous orange hues to the rolling prairie hills. Trees are still mostly green, but the hickories are beginning to turn yellow and a few ashes that snuck under the radar of the invasive ash borers are adding dark purples here and there.

### Central

Leaf watchers report little color change during the first week of fall. Some smooth sumac in places is starting to turn dark red. Some lighter reds are visible in the gray and silky dogwoods, along with some yellows in black walnuts. Goldenrods are blooming full colors. The hints of fall color are out there.



In east-central Illinois, limited yellow color is showing up on black walnut and in some cases ash that have been stressed by dry weather and insect pressure. Soy bean fields are now mostly golden. In the Champaign-Urbana area, dogwoods have started turning over the last week.



### **West Central**

More color is showing this week in western Illinois. Some maples are showing a lot of color, but are dropping leaves due to dry conditions. Sumac is turning nice deep red/purple; Virginia creeper is showing a lot of red; cottonwoods are yellowing quickly and dropping leaves. Some oaks are showing a bit of color, with more to come in the weeks ahead.

### **South**

A few of the sassafras tree leaves are starting to turn red in a few locations in southern Illinois, where almost everything is still pretty green. Some red maples are giving a peep of red here and there while the sweet gums have a nice fringe of yellow when the light hits them. It has been very dry throughout the region.



In deep southern Illinois, some red is showing on sour (black) gum, sumacs, and sassafras on a few leaves. Having a yellow cast with a few yellow leaves are slippery elm, box elder, and hackberry. Black walnut trees are dropping a few leaves as more turn yellow. Sycamore and yellow poplar are losing a few leaves.